

# Scope of Study

---

## ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS IN CONNECTICUT

In recent years, national and world events have had a significant impact on energy availability and affordability to businesses and residents in Connecticut. Rising prices are affecting the quality of life for Connecticut residents. Concern has been expressed about how well Connecticut energy conservation and efficiency programs address residential and business needs, in addition to whether the current efforts are accessible to consumers in the state.

In 1978, the Connecticut General Assembly passed legislation (codified in C.G.S. Sec.16a-35k) setting forth eight goals that provide a broad energy policy for the state. Two of those goals are: *to assist citizens and businesses in implementing measures to reduce energy consumption and costs; and to ensure that low-income households can meet essential energy needs*. In the ensuing 30 years since those goals were established, there have been many changes to the landscape for providing energy. Many of these were tied to the deregulation of the electric industry in 1998, which also established a number of programs aimed at promoting and implementing energy conservation and efficiency.

Most recently, the legislature enacted P.A. 07-242, An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency, that made a number of substantive changes to the state's energy laws. For example, the act restored funding for the electric conservation and clean energy funds in addition to establishing new energy efficiency programs and tax incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## AREA OF FOCUS

This study will focus on assessing progress made in achieving the two broad goals of reducing energy consumption and assisting low-income households. It will also examine efforts currently underway to educate and assist residential and commercial consumers in these areas, and determine whether state energy efficiency and conservation programs are established and implemented in an effective and efficient way.

## AREAS OF ANALYSIS

- 1) Identify and describe all programs and organizations that promote and implement energy conservation and efficiency policies in the areas of electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil; the extent of coordination among programs; and any gaps that may exist.
- 2) Identify and describe all programs aimed at assisting low-income residents pay their heating and electric bills, and the coordination of the programs.
- 3) Examine the trends in capacity and demand for the programs and the timeliness of assistance provided.

- 4) Identify and analyze the distribution and utilization of all funds intended to improve conservation and efficiency of residential and commercial use of energy, and/or provide financial assistance to eligible consumers.
- 5) Describe programs and financial incentives currently offered, including how residents and businesses are informed, and how accessible the programs are to relevant consumers.
- 6) Review the status of implementation of P.A. 07-242 (An Act Concerning Electricity and Energy Efficiency) related to energy conservation and efficiency.
- 7) Examine surrounding states' structures to determine whether a particular structure facilitates the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation policies and programs and also identify any model structures nationwide.
- 8) Identify opportunities to improve the structure and delivery of Connecticut's state energy conservation, efficiency, and financial assistance efforts for residents and businesses.

#### **AREAS EXCLUDED FROM SCOPE**

The scope would not examine energy conservation and efficiency programs in the transportation area.